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of all Forms of
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UNDER ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONVENTION

Eleventh periodic reports of States parties due in 1990

Addendum

BULGARIA *

[4 March 1991]

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* The present report constitutes the ninth, tenth and eleventh periodic reports of Bulgaria, due on 5 January 1986, 5 January 1988 and 5 January 1990 respectively, submitted in one document.

For the seventh and eighth periodic reports submitted by the Government of Bulgaria and the summary records of the meetings of the Committee at which those reports were considered, see:

Seventh periodic report - CERD/C/118/Add.17/Rev.1 (CERD/C/SR.761-762);
Eighth periodic report - CERD/C/118/Add.17/Rev.1 (CERD/C/SR.761-762).

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Part I - GENERAL

1. Racial Discrimination is incompatible with the ideology and social practice of the Bulgarian people whose tolerance has been transmitted throughout its centuries-long history. Religious bias has always been alien to its nature. Bulgarians have never been inimical to other national or ethnic communities even when attempts were made to coerce them to assimilate during the period of Ottoman domination. Bulgarian history has not witnessed religious abuses and outrages; religious hostility is alien to it. A telling manifestation of the democratic traditions of the Bulgarian people is the protection of the Bulgarian Jews during World War II which saved them from being annihilated in the concentration camps of Hitler. These democratic tendencies underlie the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that are regulated by the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Bulgaria and which are extended equally to all citizens of the country in conformity with Bulgaria's international commitments. Pursuant to the Bulgarian Constitution and legislation, all Bulgarian nationals irrespective of their racial, ethnic, religious or linguistic affiliation are entitled to equal rights. Thus, Bulgarian legislation is objectively directed against any kind of distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference on the basis of race, colour, or national and ethnic origin. Every Bulgarian citizen has the right to freedom of conscience and religion, the right to study his mother tongue, the right of self-determination within the limits of law.

2. The political practice in our country, however, ran counter to the legislation. During the period of totalitarian régime, these basic principles were seriously violated. Some of the Bulgarian citizens professing the Islamic religion were coerced into changing their names and abandoning some of their customs and traditions. This kind of policy turned out to be the main reason for the large-scale migration of a portion of them to the Republic of Turkey in the summer of 1989, which made Bulgaria face political, economic and moral cataclysms.

3. The overthrow of the totalitarian régime on 10 November 1989 radically changed the political situation in Bulgaria. The process of democratization that was set in motion brought about a new attitude towards human rights in the country. The policy of discrimination against Turkish-speaking Bulgarian citizens and those who profess the Islamic religion was condemned by the whole society. Legislative, judicial and administrative measures to restore the violated rights of the Bulgarian citizens who profess the Islamic religion were taken immediately. These measures comply completely with Bulgaria's international commitments in the field of human rights, including those that stem from the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Democratization, including in this field, certainly cannot be achieved by a single act and Bulgaria is resolved to pursue firmly a policy of prohibiting and punishing all acts of racial discrimination of any kind.

4. Concrete measures will be elaborated on in Part II of this report, but in order to outline the general legal framework within which the policy of prohibition and punishment of racial discrimination is being carried out, the most important of them will be enumerated. The Declaration on the National Issue, adopted by the National Assembly on 15 January 1990, stands first. It does not have the effect of law but it is an act of the supreme

body of State authority, the Parliament, and conveys the consensus on the national issue reached by all groups of people in the country. This consensus is a necessity and at the same time is the only guarantee for the future implementation of this policy. Apart from that, such laws as the Amendment Law to the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria of 3 April 1990; the Assemblies, Rallies and Demonstrations Law of 25 January 1990; the Bulgarian Citizens names Law of 5 March 1990, the Political parties Law of 3 April 1990; the Amnesty Laws of 17 November 1989, 15 December 1989 and 15 January 1990; and the Amendment Laws to the Penal Code of 17 November 1989 and 15 December 1989 should be listed. These normative documents set up a firm legal basis for human rights observance in the democratic Bulgarian society.

5. In connection with the alterations in legislation, it should be specially pointed out that section 3 of the Political Parties Law and article 37, paragraph 3 of the law of Grand National Assembly Election of 3 March 1990 make possible the participation of non-party organizations and movements in parliamentary elections.

6. In principle, the adoption of relevant laws and other normative documents is necessary for the implementation of international agreements within the domestic legal system of the Republic of Bulgaria. This issue is not regulated in the Constitution. Paragraph 23 of the Decree on Participation of the Republic of Bulgaria in International Agreements of 1975 stipulates that when an international agreement requires adoption of a normative document, the Council of Ministers issues a decree on issues that are within its competence; as far as other issues are concerned, it puts forward a proposal for a decree or a law to be adopted. This procedure exists in many countries and is in conformity with international legal norms. Like other agreements in the field of human rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination has not direct application within the Bulgarian legal system. The norms required for the functioning of this Convention have been set up by Bulgarian legislation.

7. It is, however, necessary to note how international agreements function within the Bulgarian legal system. In some cases, the Bulgarian normative documents refer to the international agreements to which Bulgaria is a party or to the body of international law (e.g. article 2 of the Law of Foreigners' Residence in the Republic of Bulgaria stipulates that foreigners resident on its territory have rights and duties consistent with Bulgarian law and the international agreements to which Bulgaria is a party). In this particular case, some provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination that do not require adoption of explicit norms by Bulgarian legislation can be applied directly by the respective State authorities.

8. Foreign citizens and persons without citizenship are entitled to the same rights and duties as the citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria, irrespective of their racial, national and ethnic origin.

PART II - INFORMATION ON ARTICLES 2 TO 7 OF THE CONVENTION

A. Article 2

9. The overall social and political development of the Republic of Bulgaria is not conducive to acts of racial discrimination of any kind directed at any persons, groups or parts of the population, or to foreigners resident on its territory.

10. The Constitution and the other normative documents bind the local and national authorities. Therefore, the State policy of non-tolerance of racial discrimination is consistently carried through to the lowest administration branches.

11. The legal oversight carried out by the Prosecutor's Office and the Committee of State Control guarantees the implementation of State policy on these issues. The adoption of the Law of State Responsibility for Damages Caused by Citizens (State Newspaper, No. 60/1989) is of great importance. The responsibility pertaining to damages as a result of illegal acts as well as of activities and passivity on the part of State authorities and officials in the course of their administrative duties is laid down in article 1, paragraph 1.

12. Even after the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, it was not necessary for either the practice or the legislation to be reconsidered since they have always been consistent with the Convention.

13. A number of constitutional and legal regulations dwelling on non-tolerance of inequality and discrimination of any kind will be analysed below under article 5; the specific features of the penal policy will be mentioned here.

14. Chapter III, Part I of the ad hoc section of the Penal Code of the Republic of Bulgaria lays down the corpus delicti of violations of national and racial equality. Acts of instigating racial and national hostility or racial discrimination, (crimes against persons and property, or participating in or organizing of criminal groups to this end) are considered indictable under article 162. Article 163 dwells on acts of instigating and participating in a group of persons ready to assault a portion of the population, individual citizens and their property. The corpus delicti under paragraphs 2 and 3 refer to assaults accompanied by relevant consequences including serious bodily harm, death, or in case the persons were armed.

15. Chapter XIV of the Penal Code, Violations of peace and crimes against mankind, is set apart as an independent chapter. Its Part III refers to annihilation of groups of the population (genocide) and apartheid. Articles 416 and 417 provide for the death penalty as an exclusive punitive measure for perpetration of this kind of crime. This fact tertifies to the unconditional policy of eliminating any possibility of this kind of crime being committed and provide the most severe sentence possible. The planning and instigation of similar crimes (article 416, paragraphs 2 and 3; article 417, paragraphs 2 and 3) as well as more moderate acts of apartheid like detention, withdrawal of rights, impeding others from participating in social life (article 418) are punishable by 10 to 20 or 5 to 15 years of imprisonment.

16. The measures taken by the Republic of Bulgaria under article 2, paragraph 2 to set up preferential conditions for overall development and protection of certain racial groups have as their most general characteristic the guarantee of equal opportunities within the whole social, political, economic and cultural spectrum. Our country has not witnessed any legislation or practice of discrimination whose results have to be rectified. However, information of this kind will be presented in the other parts of this report with reference to some new legislative decisions and practical activities.

B. Article 3

17. There is no practice of racial segregation or apartheid in the Republic of Bulgaria. Bulgaria condemns this characteristic practice of some countries and, as a State Party to the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (ratified by the Republic of Bulgaria on 16 June, 1974), has taken the necessary special measures to prevent, prohibit, punish and eradicate the practice of apartheid in line with articles I, II, III and IV of this Convention. To that effect, in 1975 Part III, Annihilation of certain groups of the population (genocide) of chapter 14, Crimes Against peace and humanity, of the Penal Code were considerably amended. Thus the corpus delicti for criminal acts of apartheid have been worked out in the sense of article 2 of the Convention on Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

18. Article 417 of the Penal Code alternatively provides for sentence of 10 to 20 years of imprisonment or death to a person convicted of systematically oppressing race or group of people (in conformity with item (a) (i) and (ii) of Article II of the Convention on Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid).

19. Article 418 of the Penal Code provides for a sentence of 5 to 15 years of imprisonment to a person who, in the context of article 417 of the Penal Code mentioned above:

(a) Illegally detains members of a race or group of people and forces them to work (in conformity with item (a) (iii) and item (e) of Article II of the Convention on Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid);

(b) Takes measures to prevent a race or group of people from taking part in the political, social, economic and cultural life of the country and to create deliberately conditions hindering the development of such a group of people, in particular by depriving its members of the fundamental freedoms and citizens' rights (in conformity with item (c) of Article 2 of the Convention);

(c) Takes steps to split the population on the basis of their race by setting up reserves and ghettos, by banning mixed marriages between members of different race groups or by dispossessing them of their land (in conformity with item (d) of Article II of the Convention);

(d) Deprives organizations or persons of basic rights and freedoms because they defy apartheid (in conformity with item (f) of Article II of the Convention).

20. Article 416 regulates the penal liability for the crime of genocide. Paragraph 2 of article 416 of the Penal Code provides for a sentence of 2 to 8 years of imprisonment to a person who plans genocide, while paragraph 3

provides for a sentence of 1 to 8 years of imprisonment to a person who instigates genocide overtly or directly.

21. The general regulations of article 419 of the Penal Code lays down the penal liability of a person who consciously allows his subordinates to commit the crime provided for in article 14 of the Penal Code, namely a crime against peace and humanity, including also the crime of apartheid.

22. Bulgarian legislation is in complete compliance with the requirements of article IV (b) of the Convention with respect to prosecution and punishment of persons held responsible and accused of having committed the acts listed in Article II of the Convention, whether or not they are on the territory of the State where the crime was committed, whether or not they are citizens of that State, or if they do not have citizenship. Pursuant to article 3, paragraph 1 of the Penal Code, the Penal Code is applied to every crime committed on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria. The fact that the person who has committed the crime on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria has subsequently left is of no relevance. Moreover, pursuant to article 4, paragraph 1 of the Penal Code, the Penal Code is also applied to Bulgarian citizens who have committed crimes abroad, while article 6 of the Penal Code provides for the application of the Penal Code in respect of citizens who have committed crimes abroad against peace and humanity, thus infringing on the interests of another country or other foreign citizens, or to those who have perpetrated other crimes, as provided for in the international agreement to which the Republic of Bulgaria is a State Party.

23. Since there is no practice of racial segregation or apartheid in Bulgaria, no special judicial or administrative measures as regards the crime of apartheid have been taken. No criminal lawsuits have been undertaken and no persons have been convicted under articles 417, 418 and 419 of the Penal Code, or under article 416 of the Penal Code.

24. The Republic of Bulgaria has always taken a firm stand against colonialism and racism, against apartheid and racial discrimination of any kind. This is the principle which characterizes its foreign policy and it is adhered to unconditionally and consistently. It is not by chance that the Republic of Bulgaria is among the first countries that signed and ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. It is a co-author of, or made a considerable contribution to, the adoption of resolution 2311 (XXII) of 14 December 1967 entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations; UN General Assembly resolution 2545 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 entitled "Measures to be taken against nazism and racial intolerance"; resolution 3103 (XXVIII) of 12 December 1973 entitled "Basic principles of the legal status of the combatants struggling against colonial and alien domination and racist regimes".

The Republic of Bulgaria has been a member of the Special Committee of 24 on Decolonization since 1962. It has actively participated in its work and has consistently fought for the elimination of the colonial system. Bulgarian representatives have taken part in the elaboration of fundamental resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to

Colonial Countries and Peoples (resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960). Bulgarian representatives have also served as chairmen and rapporteurs of the Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance; they have taken part in the activities of the Sub-Committee on Small Territories. The Republic of Bulgaria's election as a member of the United Nations Council for Namibia in 1978 testifies to its high international prestige in the struggle against colonialism. As a member of the Council, our country did its best to put a halt to the illegal occupation of Namibia, to isolate the South African administration illegally based in that country, to launch efficient measures against the racist Government of the Republic of South Africa and to render assistance to SWAPO.

25. The Republic of Bulgaria has supported wholeheartedly and has carried through all the United Nations Security Council resolutions dealing with the prevention, prosecution and punishment of the crime of apartheid and has contributed to the implementation of the decisions of the other United Nations bodies adopted to this end. It has subscribed to the United Nations resolutions imposing diplomatic and economic sanctions... (including the embargo on the sale of weapons to the Republic of South Africa and others) that seek to make the racist regime in South Africa renounce the policy of apartheid it has been following.

26. During the period under review, on different occasions and at different fora, the Republic of Bulgaria has expressed its solidarity with the people's just struggle against colonialism and neo-colonialism and especially with the right of the people of Namibia to be granted complete independence in line with United Nations Security Council resolution 435, and has expressed its determination to contribute to the utmost to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and especially to the final liquidation of apartheid. This position is expounded in the declaration of the Republic of Bulgaria's National Assembly of 1985 on the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and the thirtieth anniversary of Bulgaria's membership in the United Nations, as well as in the Report on the international situation and the foreign policy of the Republic of Bulgaria, in the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria of 1987 dealing with the Report, and in the Declaration of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria of 1988 on the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

27. The Republic of Bulgaria has been following carefully and with great interest the ongoing democratic reforms in the Republic of South Africa directed towards dismantling the apartheid system. It welcomes the legalization of the African National Congress, the South African Communist Party and the Pan Africanist Congress, the release of some political prisoners, the repeal of some laws that restricted the rights of the black population, the intention of the Government of the Republic of South Africa to ensure rights and possibilities for all the citizens of the country. The Bulgarian people welcomed with joy, satisfaction and hope the news of the long-awaited release of Nelson Mandela, the universally recognized leader of the African National Congress, the fighter for civil rights and social justice, the Dimitrov Prize Laureate. The Declaration of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria of 15 February 1990 on this occasion says that Mandela's release is

"a result of the struggle of the democratic forces in the country and the efforts of the international community to eliminate the system of racism and apartheid existent in the South African Republic... The Republic of Bulgaria is solidary with the just cause of the South African people and will go on supporting the struggle for the utter liquidation of the denounced system of apartheid. Our society looks upon the release of Nelson Mandela, the legendary son of Africa, as an important step along the road leading to the establishment of a non-racial society in the country... The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria believes that the democratic reforms in the Republic of South Africa will be promoted and expanded as to implement the noble human ideals, to set up a unified, non-racial and democratic Republic of South Africa to which Nelson Mandela devoted his life".

28. The Republic of Bulgaria welcomed with great satisfaction the proclamation of Namibia's independence on 21 March 1990. This pact put an end to the long illegal occupation and policy of apartheid imposed on Namibia by the Republic of South Africa and finished off the process of decolonialization of the African continent. On this occasion, the Chairman of the State Concil sent a message to the President of Namibia conveying to him his greetings for the proclamation of the country's independence and expressing his wishes for promotion of the relations between the two countries on a mutually beneficial basis. Bulgaria's Prime Minister sent a message to Namibia's Prime Minister. At the talks held between the President of Namibia and the Bulgarian governmental delegation that took part in the festivities for Namibia's independence proclamation, the gratitude towards the Republic of Bulgaria for the moral, political and diplomatic assistance and the financial aid it had rendered to the Namibian people found its expression, and the two countries agreed to establish diplomatic relations.

C. Article 4

29. The equality of citizens, i.e. their equality before law, is a basic constitutional principle of the Republic of Bulgaria that allows for no exceptions (article 35, paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria). The prohibition of privileges and restrictions in law that are based on nationality, origin, creed, sex, race and other distinctions of any kind stems directly from this principle (article 35, paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria).

30. Article 35, paragraph 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria provides for the application of the equality principle by laying down the special obligation of all citizens to refrain from inciting hostility and from humiliating a person because of his race, national or religious affiliation. This obligation is underpinned by the threat of sentence in pursuance of the Penal Code. The relevant penal liability is provided for in the Penal Code in chapter III, Crimes against citizens' rights, section I, Crimes against national and racial equality (articles 162-163 of the Penal Code). Article 162, paragraph 1 provides for sentence of up to three years of imprisonment or public censure in cases of instigating racial or national enmity or hostility or racial discrimination. Pursuant to article 162, paragraph 2 of the Penal Code, acts of violence against another person or damage done to another's property because of nationality, race, religion or political convictions is punishable by up to three years' imprisonment or by public censure. Instigation under article 162, paragraph 2 and complicity

under article 162, paragraphs 1 and 2 are also punishable according to article 21 in reference to article 20 of the Penal Code (in conformity with the requirement of article 4, item (a) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination). Bulgarian legislation stipulates the unlawfulness of and prohibits organizations and organized activities that encourage racial discrimination and which instigate it. Participation in organizations and activities of this kind is considered a crime punishable by law (in conformity with article 4, item (c) of the Convention). The provisions of article 52, paragraph 4, in its amended form of 1990, of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria state categorically: "The organizations whose activities are directed against the sovereignty, the territorial integrity of the country and the unity of the nation, towards stirring up of racial, national, ethnic or religious hostility, towards violation of citizens' rights and freedoms, as well as organizations that propagandize fascist ideology or try to attain their goals by using violence, are prohibited".

31. The provisions of articles 2 and 3 of the Political Parties Law adopted on 3 March 1990 are also in conformity with the Constitutional provisions mentioned. Pursuant to article 2, the political parties carry out their activities within the framework of the Constitution and the laws of the country in conformity with their statutes. The establishment of a political party directed against the sovereignty or the territorial integrity of the country, the citizens' rights and freedoms or the Constitution and the laws of the country is banned pursuant to article 3, paragraph 2, item 3 of the Political Parties Law. Should a party carry out activities that contravene article 3 of the Political Parties Law, according to article 23, paragraph 1 in reference to article 22 of the Political Parties Law the political party is to be disbanded in pursuance of the Supreme Court resolution on the proposal of the Chief Prosecutor, following the procedure laid down by the Civil Procedure Code. The Supreme Court resolution for a party to be disbanded can be appealed against before the General Assembly of the Civil Association, following the general procedure. The General Assembly decision is not subject to a review following the oversight procedure (article 23, paragraph 2 of the Political Parties Law).

32. The Meetings, Rallies and Demonstrations Law adopted on 25 January 1990 also prevents organized activities that incite and instigate racial discrimination. Article 12, paragraph 2, item 4 of this law permits meetings, rallies and demonstrations to be banned when they are undeniably reported to infringe on other citizens' rights and freedoms.

33. On 6 March 1990 the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria took a decision dealing with the general principles of the status of Bulgarian Television and Bulgarian Radio. The tasks of the two institutions, set forth in the decision, exclude the possibility for them to be used for propaganda that stimulates and instigates racial discrimination. The decision states that, on the basis of the requirements of the Constitution, the two institutions will play their role in the process of consolidating national unity, democratizing the society, and approving the basic national and universal values; contribute to the humanitarian and patriotic upbringing of youth and children and teach them to have respect for human dignity and for the moral, ideological and religious convictions of the people; render their assistance in the pursuit of foreign policy aimed at peace and understanding among the nations. The obligation of Bulgarian Television and Bulgarian Radio

not to stir up ethnic and religious hatred and hostility in the society through their programmes is explicitly provided for.

34. The National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria declared in its Declaration on the National Issue of 15 January 1990 that all Bulgarian citizens are equal before the law and are entitled to equal rights and freedoms and have equal obligations (item 2 of the Declaration). Item 7 of the Declaration states that the existence of political and other public organizations, as well as the organizing and carrying out of activities directed against the territorial integrity of the country and the unity of nations, and trying to divide and set apart certain sections of its territ on religious, ethnic or other grounds are not allowed in the Republic of Bulgaria. The Declaration states that these kinds of activities will be prosecuted strictly by law. The National Assembly confirms, in item 8 of Declaration, that the planning and performing of discriminatory activitie any kind or of encroachment on a citizen's dignity, as well as the instig of ethnic hatred and hostility, are inadmissible and are severely indicta by law. The authorities in charge of legal protection and defence are required to act immediately against the perpetrators of acts of this kind The National Assembly puts an emphasis on the need for strict and unconditional adherence to the principle of equality before the law of al citizens without allowing privileges and preferences (item 9). At the sa time, the Declaration underlines that it is necessary to pass a law provi for additional judicial, administrative and legal guarantees to defend th rights, the freedoms, the security, the peaceful life and the interests o smaller segments of the population, set apart for their ethnic origin and living in a certain region, district or settlement. Such groups of the population will be protected and looked after by the State and its author so as to prevent people from leaving the country by force or from emigrat from the freely chosen place of residence with no pretext (item 10).

35. The persons who have set up or are leaders of an organization or gro whose aim is to perform acts under article 162, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Penal Code, i.e. to propagandize and instigate racial or national hatred hostility, or to damage another person's property because of this nationa race, religion or his political convictions, are to be convicted under article 162, paragraph 3 of the Penal Code and sentenced to 6 years of imprisonment and to public censure. Members of such organizations or gro are sentenced to up to 3 years of imprisonment and to public censure (article 162, paragraph 4). In case of crimes under article 162, paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4, the Court can enact compulsory resettlement (article 162, paragraph 5 of the Penal Code). Article 163 of the Penal C provides for criminal liability of persons who are assembled to attack ce groups of the population, individual citizens or their property because o their national and racial affiliation. The legislative body has assigned special sets of judges - article 163, paragraph 2 refers to the cases whe crowd or some of the participants are armed; article 162, paragraph 3 ref to the cases when an attack results in serious bodily harm or death.

36. Bulgarian legislation does not include special regulations addressed the national or local authorities of State power, or to State institution that will enjoin them from encouraging and instigating acts of racial discrimination. The cases provided for in article 4, item (c) of the International Convention on the elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination are included in the norms of the Constitution and the Pena

Code which are now in force, because they refer to all subjects of law. The fact that the crimes provided for in the Penal Code are committed by State authorities will be an aggravating circumstance and the cumulative application of article 387 of the Penal Code is possible.

D. Article 5

37. Article 35 of the Constitution provides for a general prerequisite so that our State can abide by the requirements of the Convention: No privileges or restrictions of rights based on nationality, origin, religion, sex, race, education, social or material state are allowed (para. 2); the State guarantees the equality of all citizens by creating conditions and granting them opportunities to exercise their rights and to fulfil their obligations (art. 3).

38. Certain rules corresponding to our obligations under the Convention, and article 5 in particular, are set out in the overall normative system of the Republic of Bulgaria. For the purposes of this report, we will follow the list of rights enumerated in article 5 of the Convention.

(a) The right to equal treatment before the tribunals and all other organs administering justice

39. The principle of equality before the law underlies article 35, paragraph 1 of the Constitution and items 2 and 9 of the Declaration of the National Assembly on the National Issue. The provision that the courts are to apply the laws strictly and equally to all citizens is underlined in article 130 of the Constitution, article 5 of the Law on the Structure of the Courts of Justice and article 10, paragraph 2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

40. Article 10, paragraph 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure elaborates on this idea by stating: "No privileges and restrictions based on nationality, origin, religion, sex, race, education, social status or wealth are allowed." Article 24 of the Law of Foreigners' Residence in the Republic of Bulgaria states that foreigners are equal to Bulgarian citizens before the Bulgarian Courts of Justice and before other bodies of jurisdiction and have civil, criminal and administrative liability equal to the liability of Bulgarian citizens unless something different is provided for.

41. The obligatory appointment of an interpreter in cases where the accused does not have command of Bulgarian language guarantees equal rights during the trial (art. 11, para. 2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure; art. 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure).

42. The overriding principles of our criminal procedure such as the public sitting of the court (art. 13 of the Code of Criminal Procedure), the guaranteed right to defence (art. 14, para. 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure), etc. corroborate the issues mentioned above.

(b) The right to security of person and protection by the State against violence or bodily harm, whether inflicted by government officials or by any individual group or institution

43. The freedom and inviolability of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution (art. 48, para. 1), along with the right of each citizen

to defence (art. 50), is a universal provision in this case. All acts of discrimination of any kind based on racial, national or religious affiliation and the instigation of such acts (art. 35, para. 4 of the Constitution and item 8 of the Declaration of the National Assembly) are prohibited and strictly indictable.

44. Pursuant to chapter XIV, part III of the Penal Code, the crimes of genocide and apartheid are strictly indictable; the death penalty as an exceptional measure is provided for in reference to corpus delicti under article 416, paragraph 1 and article 417 (the State policy in that respect is presented in detail within the information under art. 2 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination). Following the general rules, individuals who act in the capacity of "officials" in the sense of the Penal Code are tried and convicted by special judges. Therefore, this provision guarantees the increased criminal liability of individuals in their capacity as governmental and other State officials if they are accused of having committed crimes that have a bearing on racial discrimination in the broad sense of the term.

45. Whenever their guaranteed rights have been violated, all citizens without exception can address requests, complaints and suggestions to competent State authorities (art. 55 of the Constitution) or petition the court for defence, which cannot be refused them (art. 23 of the Law of Foreigners' Residence in the Republic of Bulgaria).

46. As a rule, the State is responsible for the damage done as a result of the illegal official activities of its authorities and functionaires (art. 56, para. 1 of the Constitution). These regulations are applicable to acts of racial discrimination whether they result or not in death or bodily injury. Individuals and groups of persons who do not have an official capacity are prosecuted according to general criminal procedure.

(c) Political rights, in particular the rights to participate in elections - to vote and stand for election - on the basis of universal and equal suffrage, to take part in the Government as well as in the conduct of public affairs at any level and to have equal access to public service

47. The principle of election of representative bodies at all levels on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot is constitutionally provided for in the Republic of Bulgaria (art. 6, para. 1) and is corroborated by the Law of the Grand National Assembly Election (art. 2). All citizens who have reached the age of 18 and are not under complete detention (art. 6, para. 3 of the Constitution) have the right to suffrage. Article 3 of the Law of the Grand National Assembly Election provides for imprisonment as an exception to the exercise of the right to suffrage. It is undeniably known that this fundamental civil right can be exercised without any restrictions based on distinctions of any kind as to sex, nationality, race, creed, education, social status or property. Article 2 of the former Electoral Law of the Republic of Bulgaria stipulates this provision.

48. Each citizen entitled to the right to suffrage can be elected to the representatives bodies with no restrictions (art. 6, para. 3 of the Constitution; art. 42, para. 1 of the former Electoral Law; art. 35, para. 1 of the Law of the Grand National Assembly Election).

49. Access to public service is not restricted except on the basis of such requirements as education, speciality, conviction, etc. Bulgarian citizenship is a main prerequisite for some types of activity (art. 32, para. 2 of the Militia Law; art. 65 of the Law of the Structure of the Courts of Justice Structure). As regards military service, this obligation pertains to all males who are citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, education, social status or property (art. 2, para. 2 of the Military Service Law).

(d) Other civil rights, in particular:

(i) The right to freedom of movement and residence within the State

50. The residence institution encompassing all Bulgarian citizens, binding them administratively to one or another settlement, has been eliminated by decree of the President. No prohibition as to movement around the territory of the country has been imposed on any group of citizens.

(ii) The right to leave any country, including one's own, and to return to one's country

51. Pursuant to the Amendment Law to the Passports Law (the State Newspaper, No. 38/1989), all the citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria have the right to leave the country and to come back when they have Bulgarian passports or any other certificate that can substitute for them (art. 1, para. 1). This right is not subject to restrictions except in cases when the individuals concerned are needed to protect the national security, public order, public health or morals, or the rights and freedoms of other citizens as laid down by law (art. 2). Only a restricted number of persons, and for certain periods of time, are not allowed to obtain passports to travel abroad (art. 7). Articles 280 and 281 of the Penal Code have been cancelled and the acts described under them amnestied. The cases of failure to return to the country within the period of time fixed by the expiry of the passport are subject to administrative penalties only.

52. Under relevant circumstances, foreigners can come to Bulgaria and settle there. The reasons for which such actions may be banned are strictly and clearly defined (art. 7, para. 1 of the Law of Foreigners' Residence in the Republic of Bulgaria) and have nothing to do with racial, national, religious, etc. distinctions. As long as they abide by the regulated procedure, foreigners can move freely around the territory of the country (see for details Regulations for the Application of the Law of Foreigners' Residence in the Republic of Bulgaria, the State Newspaper 11/1990).

53. The Republic of Bulgaria grants the right of asylum to foreign citizens and their families persecuted for defending the workers' interests, for taking part in national liberation struggles, for carrying out progressive political, scientific, cultural and artistic activities, for fighting against racial discrimination and for safeguarding the peace (art. 2, decree No. 520 on the Right to Asylum).

(iii) The right to nationality

54. Bulgarian citizenship can be attained by origin (art. 6) or by place of birth (art. 7 of the Bulgarian Citizenship Law). As regards the attainment of citizenship by naturalization (arts. 8-15 of the same law), there are no

restrictions of a racial, religious, ethnic or other nature, except some special requirements pertaining to some other international commitments of our country. Bulgarian citizenship can be withdrawn only in the cases where a serious crime against the Republic of Bulgaria has been committed, thus affecting the security of its interests, and when the perpetrator of the crime is in a foreign country.

55. The names of Bulgarian citizens are not dependent on their citizenship. It is not by accident that the Declaration of the National Assembly on this issue states: "Every Bulgarian citizen is entitled to free choice of name" (item 4). The Law of Bulgarian Citizens' Names (the State Newspaper, 20/1990) state that every Bulgarian citizen whose name had been changed by force can restore his previous name if he/she so wishes (art. 1, para. 2 of the Interim and Final Regulations).

(iv) The right to marriage and choice of spouse

56. All Bulgarian citizens who have reached the age of 18 (in certain cases the court can give permission to those who have not reached that age) can freely enter into marriage. The restrictions pertain only to the degree of kinship or to a previously defined range of diseases that can be dangerous for the offspring or the other spouse. Civil marriage is the only valid form (art. 6, para. 2 of the Family Code); religious ceremonies are allowed but they have moral meaning rather than legal effect (art. 6, para. 2).

(v) The right to own property alone as well as in association with others

57. Property in the Republic of Bulgaria is State, municipal, cooperative, that belonging to public organizations and other juridical persons, private and personal, collective, and that belonging to citizens and other juridical persons (art. 14, para. 1 of the Constitution). All kinds of property are subject to equal protection by the State and benefit from equal opportunities for development (art. 14, para. 2). Every Bulgarian citizen has the right to own property without distinction as to sex, race, creed, nationality, etc. except in cases where it pertains to a State or municipal monopoly. The provisions of article 1, paragraph 1 of the Law of Citizens' Property are to this effect.

58. Infringing upon someone's property by expropriating or limiting it are extreme actions resorted to only when the needs of the State cannot otherwise be met (art. 28, para. 1 of the Constitution).

59. Foreign citizens can obtain real property in Bulgaria with the permission of the Minister of Finance, unless this property has been legally inherited.

60. The Republic of Bulgaria protects the economic activities and the investments of foreign citizens in the country and grants them political and legal conditions (art. 4, para. 2 of the Decree of Economic Activities). These foreign citizens can carry out economic activities on our territory of the types covered by the normative regulations - independently, through setting up a branch of a company or through a joint venture with Bulgarian physical and juridical persons (art. 99, para. 1 of the Decree of Economic Activities).

61. Intellectual property is protected, e.g. the copyright of works of art that are created or are on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is recognized as belonging to its author or his successors, irrespective of their citizenship (art. 10, para. 1 of the Copyright Law).

(vi) The right to inherit

62. The Bulgarian State acknowledges and guarantees the right to inherit. No restrictions, except those provided for under the Inheritance Law, can be applied.

(vii) The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion

63. This right is clearly defined in item 3 of the Declaration of the National Assembly on the National Issue. It is underlined that this right includes freedom to celebrate religious holidays, ceremonies and everyday rites, as well as to observe religious traditions and customs. The Constitution safeguards the freedom to have and to adopt a religion of one's choice, to disseminate religious or atheistic propaganda (art. 53, para. 1).

(viii) The right to freedom of opinion and expression

64. The former version of the Constitution included a text on speech, press, meetings, rallies and demonstrations (art. 54, para. 1). This, however, was not sufficiently ensured even under law. Under the provisions of the Amendment Law to the Constitution (the State Newspaper, 29/1990), a second sentence was inserted into the text explicitly enunciating and guaranteeing the freedom to express and disseminate opinions of a political, economic, social, cultural and religious nature by means of speech, the press or in any other way. The freedom to choose sources of information, without censorship, is set out.

65. Article 273 of the Penal Code was repealed (the State Newspaper, 91/1989), thus removing the basis for prosecuting ideas and opinions that contradicted the authoritarian understanding of the values and principles of the socialist system. Now the restrictions are applied to the dissemination of Fascist and other anti-democratic ideology or of an ideology pertaining to coercive alteration of the State and social system of the country (art. 108 of the Penal Code - new version, the State Newspaper, 99/1989).

(ix) The right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association

66. This issue can be divided into two parts. The first covers mass public demonstrations of citizens' persuasions and views (meetings, rallies, etc.). The second pertains to permanent associations of citizens setting up stable organizational structures (movements, parties, etc.).

67. Besides the provisions of article 54, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, of great interest is the adoption of the Law of Meetings, Rallies and Demonstrations (the State Newspaper, 19/1990). The principal prerequisites pertaining to the organization of demonstrations, the maintenance of order and the ways of expressing opinions, stands and views are set out (on the last mentioned, refer to art. 3). Pursuant to article 12, paragraph 2, a ban on the organizing of these kinds of activities can be imposed on a limited number of occasions when the rights and freedoms of the public and

public order are jeopardized or when they incite violent alteration of the State system prescribed by the Constitution and of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Bulgaria. Citizens cannot be subjected to persecution or punishment for having organized or participated in meetings, rallies or demonstrations (art. 4). At the same time, a new text 174 A within the Penal Code is being worked out, prescribing sanctions against persons who by violence, fraud, intimidation or in any other way break up or hinder similar mass public activities.

68. The Constitution allows for organizations with political, professional, cultural, artistic, scientific, religious, sports and other non-economic objectives to be established (art. 52, para. 1). Only those that carry out activities directed against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or unity of the nation, stir up racial, national, ethnic or religious hostility, violate citizens' rights and freedoms, propagandize Fascist ideology or try to attain their goals using violence are prohibited (art. 52, para. 3). The last provisions are reproduced in article 3, paragraph 2, items 3 and 4 of the Political Parties Law (the State Newspaper, 29/1990). This law guarantees citizens the right to associate in political parties and to help the people mould and express their political will through elections and in other democratic ways (art. 1, para. 1).

69. Some organizations and movements that are not parties but which are registered according to the procedure that pertains to parties were granted the possibility of taking part in the elections for the Grand National Assembly (art. 37, para. 3 of the Political Parties Law and para. 3 of the Interim and Final Regulations of the Law of the Grand National Assembly Election). This resolution is democratic and it extended the range of the public able to take part in the representative bodies.

(e) Economic, social and cultural rights, in particular:

(i) The rights to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work, to protection against unemployment, to equal pay for equal work, to just and favourable remuneration

70. The Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria guarantees citizens their right to work (art. 40, para. 1), as well as the right to free choice of employment (art. 40, para. 2). Naturally, this can be implemented on the basis of such criteria as profession, speciality, qualification (Labour Code, art. 2, para. 1). While there are no restrictions as to the choice of the place of work, employees working at some jobs of primary national importance enjoy certain privileges of a social nature. The main criterion underlying the principle of remuneration is the quality and quantity of labour (the Labour Code, art. 2, para. 1). Safe and healthy labour conditions are provided for and they can be improved by regulating the working time and remuneration by granting vacation and additional rest to employees.

71. No discrimination with respect to foreigners working in Bulgaria is allowed. Foreigners' employment under labour contract is implemented according to the procedure provided for Bulgarian citizens (art. 19, paras. 1 and 3 of the Law of Foreigners' Residence in the Republic of Bulgaria - Amendment, the State Newspaper, 53/1989).

(ii) The right to form and join trade unions

72. Article 52, paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria sets out that employees are entitled to the right to form trade unions. At present, two main trade unions are functioning in Bulgaria - the Independent Trade Unions Confederation and the Independent Labour Federation Podkrepa. Everyone has equally free access to membership.

(iii) The right to housing

73. As already mentioned, the right to ownership of immovable property is acknowledged and guaranteed to every Bulgarian citizen, including the right to housing. Moreover, the State provides houses to rent for those who need them after they have been grouped into one of five categories on the basis of certain criteria: the number of family members, the children's sex, their age and seniority within the group are of primary importance, but there are no restrictions on racial, ethnic, religious or other grounds.

(iv) The right to public health, medical care, social security and social services

74. The citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria have the right to insurance for illness, pregnancy, maternity leave, child care, accidents, disability, unemployment, old age and death, as well as the right to aid provided in certain cases laid down by law (the Constitution, art. 43, para. 1). Every citizen has the right to medical care free of charge (the Constitution, art. 47, para. 3). The range of people entitled to social security is quite wide - all the workers and employees at State, public, cooperative, joint or private enterprises, irrespective of their work, its duration or remuneration (art. 1, para. 1 of the Regulations for Application of Part III of the Labour Code); a number of categories of the so-called liberal professions; etc.

75. The fact that foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria have rights equal to those of Bulgarian citizens as to their labour relations, medical care, social security and taxation is of great importance and should be emphasized (art. 22 of the Law of Foreigners' Residence in the Republic of Bulgaria; art. 2 of the Regulations for Application of Part III of the Labour Code).

(v) The right to education and training

76. All citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria are entitled to free education at all levels under certain circumstances laid down by law (the Constitution, art. 45, para. 1). Primary education is compulsory. It lays the foundation for the transition to general secondary education (art. 45, paras. 4 and 5). Citizens of non-Bulgarian origin are entitled to study their own language during their course of education (art. 45, para. 7).

(vi) The right to equal participation in cultural activities

77. The State takes great care in the development of science, the arts and culture (the Constitution, art. 46, para. 2). No obstacles have ever existed to hinder the citizens of the country as well as the foreigners resident there from participating in its cultural life.

(f) The right of access to any place or service intended for use by the general public, such as transport, hotels, restaurants, cafés, theatres and parks

78. This issue is of no relevance to the Republic of Bulgaria - such restrictive measures have never been taken. Pursuant to the Penal Code of the Republic of Bulgaria, activities of this kind are cognizable (Crimes against the National and Racial Equality).

E. Article 6

79. It should be pointed out that there is no special judicial or administrative procedure within Bulgarian jurisdiction providing legal protection against acts of racial discrimination, the reason being that the procedures operating within the jurisdiction of the country provide everyone with the opportunity to defend his or her own rights.

80. Pursuant to articles 125 and 133 of the Constitution, the tribunals and the prosecutor's office protect citizens' rights and their lawful interests. Civil as well as criminal proceedings can be initiated by the person whose rights have been infringed upon (art. 97 of the Code of Civil Procedure; article 56 of the Code of Criminal Procedure) as well as on the prosecutor's initiative (art. 27 of the Code of Criminal Procedure; article 43 of the Code of Criminal Procedure) by means of which the citizen can defend his own rights including the rights violated by acts of racial discrimination. The procedure is regulated by the Administrative Lawsuits Law. It covers three possibilities. The first pertains to the issue of administrative document enabling the citizen to defend his own rights (first chapter of the law). The second pertains to appeal against an administrative document violating the citizen's rights before a higher administrative body (the second chapter of the law). The third possibility pertains to appeal of an administrative document before a court (the third chapter of the law).

81. Bulgarian jurisdiction guarantees the right of the person whose rights have been violated by an act of racial discrimination to receive just and adequate reparation or satisfaction for the damage suffered. The cases where this can be carried out within the criminal procedure are provided for in articles 52 and 58, paragraph 2 and article 60, paragraph 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. As far as the civil procedure is concerned, pursuant to article 45 of the Liabilities and Contracts Law, everyone is liable for damages caused.

82. Article 56 of the Constitution stipulates that the State is liable for damage inflicted by illegal acts or illegal activities of its authorities and officials. In these cases citizens have the right to reparation. In pursuance of this regulation, in 1988 the Law of the State Liability for Damage Inflicted on Citizens was adopted. The liability laid down by this law pertains to damage inflicted by illegal acts and activities of administrative, judicial and investigative authorities and of the prosecutor's office (arts. 1 and 2) . The State must provide reparation for every property and non-property damage that is a direct and immediate result of the harm (art. 4). The law also regulates questions pertaining to the procedure, the reparation, the prerequisites necessary for the initiation of the procedure and the persons who may seek reparation.

83. During the period covered by the report, no case of racial discrimination was tried by any judicial or other State body. However, acts of racial discrimination have been committed, for example the policy which was carried out by the totalitarian régime with respect to the Turkish-speaking Bulgarian citizens and those who profess the Islamic religion under which they were forced to change their names in 1984 and 1985 and were compelled to emigrate to Turkey in 1989. The political reforms that have been under way in Bulgaria since 10 November 1989 provide an opportunity to hold the former head of State responsible for these acts of racial discrimination. At present, a criminal trial against him on charges of having incited national hostility has been initiated.

84. At the same time, administrative and judicial measures to restore the rights of those Bulgarian citizens have been taken. As regards these measures, it should be noted first of all that the persons who were sentenced undeservedly to imprisonment in connection with the coercive change of the names of a certain part of the Bulgarian citizenry have undergone political and civil rehabilitation (the State Newspaper, 44/1990) and the Law of the Names was adopted on 5 March 1990. This law allows Bulgarian citizens to change their first and second names and surname by following a judicial procedure (art. 15). The law covers some special regulations concerning the restoration of the names of those Bulgarian citizens whose names were changed by force. In this case the restoration can be carried out by the court at the person's request (para. 2). The statistics show that since 25 April 1990, 265,283 applications have been filed, of which 241,944 have been considered.

F. Article 7

1. Education and teaching

85. The characteristic feature of education and teaching in Bulgaria is their genuinely democratic basis. Irrespective of the distortions produced in the social and political life of the country during the totalitarian régime, Bulgarian education has preserved the spirit of mutual understanding, tolerance and friendship among the nations and racial and ethnic groups, while the struggle against the prejudices which lead to racial discrimination is a characteristic feature of the education.

86. The Constitution and the jurisdiction of the Republic of Bulgaria set the juridical basis of the policy in the sphere of education and training. Pursuant to article 3 of the Constitution, the Republic of Bulgaria conducts a policy of peace and understanding with respect to all countries and nations. Pursuant to article 63, every citizen is to safeguard and strengthen peace while incitement to war is prohibited and is punishable under law. In pursuance of this provision of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, a special chapter entitled Crimes against Peace, is included in the Penal Code. Article 35, paragraph 4 of the Constitution excludes any act of propagating hatred and humiliation on racial, national and religious grounds. This regulation finds its concrete manifestation in Crimes against the National and Racial Equality of the Penal Code.

87. In the Republic of Bulgaria all citizens are entitled to the right of education irrespective of their national or ethnic origin. Thus, article 45 of the Constitution provides for all citizens' right to free education at all levels. Primary education is compulsory and the State creates conditions for

general secondary education. Pursuant to article 11 of the Constitution, Bulgarian is the official language but article 45, paragraph 7 of the Constitution states that citizens of non-Bulgarian origin are entitled to the right to study their mother tongue.

88. Teaching the issues related to human rights, mutual understanding, tolerance and friendship among the nations is carried out at all levels of the Bulgarian system of education. For example, at secondary school these issues are discussed within such subjects as society, society and personality, moral philosophy and law. In 1990 we introduced the subject of civics which included human rights. These issues are studied in detail at the Faculty of Law at the University of Sofia. The Bulgarian schools organized along UNESCO lines play an important role in studying and disseminating knowledge related to human rights; all the schools celebrate the international days designated by the General Assembly with reference to the issue of human rights: United Nations Day, Struggle against Racial Discrimination Day, etc.

89. Four thousand teachers in Bulgaria are Turkish-speaking Bulgarian citizens who have never been subjected to discrimination in their job assignments. In 1989, during the mass migration of Turkish-speaking Bulgarian citizens as a result of the policy of the former State leadership towards them, 1,200 teachers and most of the schoolchildren belonging to this group of Bulgarians left for Turkey. Taking into account, however, the possibility that the migrants, especially the younger generation, would not be able to adapt to conditions in Turkey, which in many ways are different from those of Bulgaria, and would come back; their schools were not closed. Those expectations proved to be justified and at present only 20 per cent of the classes where children of Turkish-speaking Bulgarians study are not full.

90. On one hand, the reforms launched within the social life of Bulgaria since the totalitarian régime collapsed gave an impetus to the democratic processes in the field of education. On the other hand, they guarantee the successful development of these processes. For example, a number of institutions have been set up with the chief task of democratizing and humanizing Bulgarian education (e.g. the National Teachers' Council, the Neophit Rilski Educational Social Fund) and educators join them with no distinction as to their ethnic origin.

91. Although Bulgarian is the official and obligatory language for all schools, the schoolchildren that belong to the Turkish-speaking population of Bulgaria can use Turkish in their everyday communications as well as study it voluntarily under the circumstances pertaining to the study of all foreign languages.

2. Culture

92. The cultural life of Bulgaria is characterized by the attention and respect the Bulgarian people feel for the achievements of culture in other countries, as well as by its pursuit of knowledge concerning these achievements and ambition to keep up with them. In that respect, the international cultural activities that are being organized in Bulgaria, most of them on a regular basis, are of great significance. The international musical festivals such as the Sofia Musical Weeks, the Varna Summer, the March Musical Days in Rousse, the International Folk Festival in Bourgas, the International Ballet Contest in Varna, the International Festival of Chamber

Music in Plovdiv, the International Book Fair, etc. are among the activities that are organized on a regular basis.

93. The different ethnic origins of Bulgarian cultural figures have never been used as a basis for discrimination when they take part in these activities. On the contrary, within the regions with a large Turkish-speaking population great cultural activities of national and international importance have been organized on a regular basis, even after the forced change of names. For example, Autumn Musical Days - November 1986; Record Days - August 1987; Experimental photography - December 1987; Tenth National Review of the Works of Young Film-makers - December 1987; National Dance Competition - April 1988; Fifth National Days of Orpheus - July 1988; Annual Literary Days in April; International Plenaries on Arts - 1986 and 1989; International Seminar on Vocal Technique and Skill of Interpretation July-August 1987 all took place in the town of Smolian. In the town of Kardgali the following activities were organized: National Exhibition of Amateur Cartoonists - April 1987; Days of Culture - November 1987; Eleventh National Review of Scientific Films - November 1987; Festival of Political Art "Land of Labour and Songs" - December 1988. The International Pianists Competition and the National Recital Competition - April 1988 were organized in the town of Shoumen, while the Tenth Musical Days - March-April 1987; an Exhibition of Young Artists, Graphics and Sculptors - May 1988; the International Painting Plenary - August-September 1986 were organized in the town of Razgrad.

94. In addition, it should be pointed out that a number of public institutions in Bulgaria such as the United Nations Society, the Committee for Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia and Africa, the Bulgarian Association of International Law and other organizations of this kind render active assistance in the promotion of friendly relations with other nations and for the liquidation of the racial discrimination.

3. Information

95. The mass media in Bulgaria pay great attention to the struggle against apartheid, racism and racial discrimination. The Bulgarian public celebrates annually the International Day for the Liquidation of Racial Discrimination, the International Day for Solidarity with the Political Prisoners of South Africa, the Week of Solidarity with the Struggle of the Peoples of South Africa and others. Meetings are organized on these occasions while the press, television and radio inform about the efforts of the United Nations in the struggle against apartheid and racism. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was published in 1989 and republished several times in a separate booklet. The issues related to the struggle against apartheid, racism and racial discrimination are the topic of a number of films, books and articles published in periodicals in Bulgaria.

96. The Bulgarian mass media have respect for the ethnic differences among Bulgarian citizens. Evidence for this is the fact that since 1945 several publications addressed to the Turkish-speaking population have been issued. The most important of them are the Nova Svetlina newspaper and the Nov Zhivot magazine. Up to 1970 they were published in Turkish, then in Turkish and Bulgarian. In February 1985, at the time of the forced change of the names of the Bulgarian citizens professing the Islamic religion, they began to be published in Bulgarian only, and in January 1989 the Nov Zhivot was closed. At the beginning of 1990, the first and second issues of the Muslim newspaper were published in Turkish by the Chief Mufti's Office with some of the articles in Bulgarian.